



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Opioid Crisis (60 Seconds)**

Over 30-thousand people died in the United States in 2015 from an opioid overdose, and more than 700 of those deaths were right here in Alabama.

This is Acting State Health Officer, Doctor Scott Harris. Ninety-one people die every day because of opioid abuse, including prescription medications and synthetic opioid overdoses. If that number isn't surprising enough, the number of overdose deaths in the United States has quadrupled over the last 15 years.

Our state has the highest level of prescription opioid use in the nation, with numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing 5.8 million prescriptions being written for opioids in Alabama in 2015. The epidemic is not just in rural areas, it's in the suburbs and in the city, affecting people in all walks of life.

October is Talk About Prescriptions Month, and it's a great time to ask your doctor about the potential risk of addiction. For more information, visit us online at [alabama-public-health-dot-gov-slash-p-d-m-p](http://alabama-public-health-dot-gov-slash-p-d-m-p).

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